

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

20 JUN 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: See Distribution

SUBJECT: Prospects for Future Soviet Weapon Systems (U)

At the request of Mr. Louis Michael, formerly the Assistant Under-Secretary of Defense for Plans and Development, and presently the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, OSWR has prepared a summary of the trends and highlights of the Soviet weapon development program. In the attached memorandum, the Soviet weapon development programs are categorized according to the US Department of Defense's major mission areas. Available information allow us to address most, but not all of the DoD's mission areas. For each mission area we summarize the trends and highlights, discuss the major qualitative improvements resulting from current development efforts and list the individual programs that can be identified on the basis of firm evidence. [redacted]

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Director
Scientific and Weapons Research

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE SOVIET WEAPON SYSTEMS [REDACTED]

14 June 1985

Summary

The Soviet Union continues to expand and improve its war-fighting capabilities by the continuous development of new and highly modernized weapon, support and command and control systems. The Soviets are placing their emphasis on the selective, but preferential, development of those weapons technologies which have the highest potential for enhancing future military capabilities. As a result, the Soviets are now developing, in some areas, fewer weapon systems than in the past, but systems that can compete technologically with Western systems. In order to maintain their requirement for quantity during this period of qualitative emphasis, the Soviets are significantly lengthening the service life--and increasing the technical capabilities-- of some older systems by selectively backfitting them with new technologies.

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This memorandum was prepared by [REDACTED] Office of Scientific and Weapons Research (OSWR), at the request of Louis Michael, formerly Assistant Under-Secretary of Defense for Plans and Development, and now the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. It has been coordinated with the Office of Soviet Analysis, and reviewed by NIO/SP and NIO/GPF. Comments are welcome and may be addressed to the Chief, Development Programs Branch, OSWR [REDACTED]

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